

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A microparticle comprising:

- (a) a core which comprises a water insoluble polymer or copolymer, and
- (b) a shell which comprises a hydrophilic polymer or copolymer and functional groups which are ionic or ionisable;

said microparticle having a disease-associated antigen adsorbed at the external surface.

2. (Original) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the disease-associated antigen is a microbial antigen or a cancer-associated antigen.

3. (Previously Presented) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble polymer is poly(styrene).

4. (Previously Presented) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble polymer is poly(methylmethacrylate).

5. (Previously Presented) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is hemisuccinated polyvinylalcohol.

6. (Currently Amended) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic copolymer is Eudragit® L100-55 (a copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethyl acrylate[[]]).

7. (Previously Presented) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the particle has a maximum size of from 0.1 to 10 $\mu$ m

8. (Previously Presented) A microparticle according to claim 1, wherein the antigen is a human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) antigen.

9. (Original) A microparticle according to claim 8, wherein the antigen is HIV-1 Tat protein (SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 or 32) or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of production of a microparticle according to claim 1, said method comprising:

(a) polymerizing one or more water insoluble monomers in the presence of one or more hydrophilic polymer by dispersion polymerization to form microparticles; and

(b) adsorbing a disease-associated antigen at the external surface of said microparticles.

11. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a microparticle according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient

12. (Withdrawn) A method of generating an immune response in an individual, said method comprising administering a microparticle according to claim 1 in a therapeutically

effective amount.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the antigen is a human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) antigen and the microparticle is administered to the individual to prevent or treat HIV infection or AIDS.

14-16. (Cancelled).